Wisconsin Citizen Review Panel Annual Report

2013-2014

Name of Panel:	Milwaukee County Partnership Council
Contact Person	Arlene Happach
& Title:	Director, Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

Briefly describe the panel's meeting schedule and number/types of meetings, including subcommittee and workgroup meetings, held in 2013.

The full PC met 6 times, 2 of which were community meetings where progress on the Jeanine B. settlement agreement was reviewed. The Critical Incident Committee met 4 times. The Health and Education Committee and the Out-of-Home Care Committee each met twice.

Please provide a summary of the panel's activities in regards to:

- 1. Evaluating the extent to which the State and the local child protection agencies are fulfilling their child protection responsibilities. The PC receives regular reports from the Bureau of Performance Management detailing BMCW performance on metrics for safety, permanency and well being. The Critical Incident Committee reviews recommendations resulting from child deaths and egregious incidents. The PC also receives regular reports from the BMCW Director, the DSP Administrator and the DCF Secretary.
- 2. Evaluating local and State progress under the State CAPTA Plan. The PC receives periodic statewide updates from the Division Administrator and the Secretary regarding overall progress.
- 3. Activities related to public outreach and comment to assess the impact of current child protection procedures and practices on children and families in the community. All PC meetings and committees are open to the public, with the exception of closed session Critical Incident meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to comment and question.

Did the panel conduct any reviews of CPS cases, child fatalities and near fatalities? If yes, please describe. The Critical Incident Committee reviews all recommendations for child welfare practice in fatal and egregious cases. The PC reviews periodic progress and ensures completion of all recommendations.

Please describe any other panel activities or issues addressed in 2013.

- The Health and Education Committee reviewed and provided recommendations around the foster care medical home project.
- The Health and Education Committee addressed issues around collaboration with Head Start and quality early care providers.

- The Health and Education Committee heard a presentation on Family Drug Treatment Court.
- The Out-of-Home Care Committee focused on placement stability for very young children in care.
- The BMCW complaint resolution process and outcomes were reviewed.
- The PC reviewed the BMCW partnership with Milwaukee County for AODA services.
- The PC provided feedback to the DCF on the development of the Office of Youth Services.
- The PC reviewed a local analysis of sex trafficking of youth, and participated in the development of treatment alternatives.
- The PC reviewed the BMCW partnership with the District Attorney office.
- The PC received a presentation from Wraparound Milwaukee concerning mental health services for children in child welfare.
- The PC participated in the redesign of BMCW intensive in-home services.

Please describe activities planned or held to date in 2014.

Presentations on Milwaukee data sharing project; evaluation of the statewide rehabilitative review process; continued monitoring of services to youth and to very young children; continued focus on placement stability; monitoring of changes in Initial Assessment.

Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the local level: Implementation of all critical incident recommendations. Expansion of services to sex trafficked youth. Expansion of services for older youth.

Panel recommendations to improve child protection services at the State level: Continued monitoring of foster care medical home outcomes; policy implementation around early childhood education for children in child welfare.

Optional/additional information or comments:

Please submit the completed CRP Annual Report and the panel's current membership list to the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families by e-mailing copies to Paula Brown at PaulaL.Brown@wisconsin.gov. The annual report and the DCF response to each report will be posted on the DCF Citizen Review Panel web page at http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/citizen_review/default.htm. Thank you.